

# What Happened to Robert DePugh?

There are many concerned and puzzled people in this country today. They have heard Robert DePugh speak, they have read his writings and have seen him on television. They know of his love for America, of his sacrifices in the effort to awaken the people to the dangers facing the nation.

They have also read the newspapers and watched television and have seen him maligned viciously and nationally. They ask why? ? ?

Robert DePugh became aware of the socialist trend in this country many years ago, even before he left college and enlisted in the army in World War II. In 1960 he founded the Minutemen organization. Soon after, along with other informative material, he publicized a letter by the Reuther brothers, written in the thirties from Russia, extolling the communist system and saying, "Carry on the fight for a Soviet America."

December 19, 1961, the Reuther brothers presented to the then Attorney General Robert Kennedy, the "Reuther Memorandum" urging that the administration take steps to suppress the "Radical Right" organizations, "efforts to deal with radical right Generals and Admirals and Minutemen." A specific suggestion was that action be taken to end the Minutemen. This action has been pursued from that time to the present, by persecution, harassment and smear, by arrests, searches and seizures, by suppression of freedom of speech, by coercion and intimidation.

Mr. DePugh was first charged with kidnapping and possession of bombshells. These state charges were groundless and dismissed. When it was seen that these smear tactics were only helping to enlarge the membership in the Minutemen organization, more severe charges were made, firearms charges, and a charge of conspiracy to rob banks. There is no such charge listed in the U.S. Criminal Code.

Then he was convicted on a three count firearms charge, which was appealed; two counts were dismissed outright, the third one was remanded for re-trial. In the time he was waiting for this appeal to be heard, he was indicted for "conspiracy" to rob a bank or banks in Washington. His family tried to make bond. Each time they thought they would be able to raise the amount, the bond was raised. The excessive bond set by the court, difficulty in obtaining bond because of "mysterious" interferences discouraging bondsmen and a fear for his own personal safety, caused Mr. DePugh to go "underground" or into "self imposed exile."

During this time the appellate court acted on the firearms case, in which the one count was to be retried. The trial date was set immediately, to be heard in a matter of days. Bob did not receive notice of this trial, he did not know the date it was to be held, so, failed to appear. As a result, on Feb. 20, 1970, he was sentenced to four years for bond jumping. In all cases against DePugh, the witnesses were and are, people over whom the government holds a threat, paid stooges and unwilling witnesses.

Mr. DePugh is now in New Mexico, where he is again under charges of firearms violations. The second amendment to the U.S. Constitution states, "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed" and nowhere in the Constitution is there named any condition under which this right shall be taken from the people. This case is vital to the citizens of this country. It is common knowledge at this time and a matter of history as to the plight of nations who have had their arms taken from them. In the U.S. the insidious approach is being used, a quietly enacted regulation and then another. Soon the people of this nation may find themselves helpless and unarmed, as was England when invasion was apparently imminent in World War II, as was France, and later, as was Hungary.

Fellow Americans, Wake Up! This is the most important firearms case in United States history. If Robert DePugh loses this



Robert DePugh, founder of the militant Minutemen, sterling patriot, Invisible Government target, framed and languishing in jail on trumped up charges of conspiracy.

case, then the Second Amendment to the Constitution will have been rendered null and void and the people of this nation will be disarmed.

This is the real reason for the effort to destroy Robert DePugh. He is a symbol of the effort to uphold the second amendment to the Constitution. He has fought a good fight, but there are those in high places who are determined to silence him.

He needs your help, and will appreciate anything you can contribute to his defense.

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## A Patriot Speaks Up

Friday, February 20, 1970, Robert DePugh, founder of the Minutemen and the Patriotic Party, stood before Judge Collinson in Federal Court, Kansas City, Missouri, and was sentenced to four years in prison. The charge was "bond jumping". Mr. DePugh had failed to appear for trial on a firearms charge. He did not receive the notice of the trial. He did not know the date it was to be held.

He had not been notified at the time of sentencing. By inquiry, his parents learned it was to be the next morning. They hurried to Leavenworth to tell him. He is now in Leavenworth prison, unjustly serving a one-year term, as the result of a groundless indictment which was dismissed.

He stood before the Judge the following morning. After preliminary statements by the attorneys the Judge asked Mr. DePugh if he wished to say something in his own behalf before the sentencing. Mr. DePugh answered, "Yes, Your Honor." While he spoke there was a hush in the room, such that the drop of a pin could have been heard. People leaned forward in rapt attention to hear every word. Tears welled in the eyes of the listeners and streamed down the cheeks of strong mature men. Even those of the opposition were motionless with downcast eyes.

The following is what Bob said to the Court:

"Yes, Your Honor, I would like just a few minutes to mention some things of which the court may not be aware but which may weigh in my favor. At the same time and with equal candor, I will mention some things that may weigh against me.

"I am forty-six years old. For the first forty-one years of my life I was a completely law-abiding citizen.

"When I worked for others, I gave an honest day's work for each day's pay. When other men worked for me, I gave an honest day's pay for each day's work. I tried to be a good husband, a good father and a good neighbor. I have been given honorary membership in several scientific societies. More than 100 new medical products have resulted from my own work as a research chemist. Many of these products are in use today to help save lives and relieve pain. In this small way at least, I have the personal satisfaction of knowing that the world is a little better place for my having been here.

"Even today, those who know me best will confirm that few people set for themselves as rigid a code of personal conduct as the prisoner who stands before you. My personal code of conduct does not permit me to gossip about other people's affairs or to hurt another person's feelings by sarcasm or innuendo. My personal code of conduct does not permit me to make myself look good at another person's expense. My personal code of conduct does not permit me to use profanity, or to drink or even smoke.

"During the past five years, I have been repeatedly accused of crimes I did not commit. As a private citizen I have been forced to marshal my limited resources, financial and psychological, over and over again to defend myself against the awesome power of State and Federal Governments, and the cost has been high — higher than you can ever know.

"Now, Your Honor, for the other side of the coin. I stand before the Court tried and found guilty. At this point it is no doubt traditional for the prisoner to offer some expression of repentance, but in all sincerity, I cannot do so. To make matters worse, I cannot, in good conscience, give the court the slightest assurance that I will ever change my ways.

"It may be of little importance but I would like to say this: I have never broken the law wantonly. I have never done anything that I thought was morally wrong or anything that actually hurt my fellowman.

"Of course, the government's position must be that the individual citizen cannot decide for himself which laws he thinks are right and which laws he thinks are wrong. Every government that has ever existed has told its citizens the same thing. At first impression this seems reasonable enough. It's usually not too difficult to obey the law. In fact, it's very easy — easy, that is, for those who have no great convictions. Such a man will attend to his own affairs. He will 'keep his nose clean'. He will stay out of trouble. He will obey the law.

"They obeyed the law, Your Honor, and stood aside while Jesus was nailed to the cross.

"They obeyed the law, Your Honor, while their fellowmen were sold into slavery, and pocketed their share of the profit.

"In Cuba today, it is the most law-abiding wife who turns her husband into the police for an insulting remark about Castro.

"In North Vietnam today it is the law-abiding citizen who takes part in the public execution of American prisoners of war.

"But for the man who has strong beliefs regarding the basic principles of right and wrong, the path is not always so clear and he has few precedents to guide him.

"The government would naturally argue that there is a great difference between our laws and the laws of Nazi Germany or North Vietnam . . . and every government prosecutor in the Soviet Union will say the same thing.

"It is ironic perhaps, that in this nation of all nations, in a nation born of revolution that the man of strong principle faces problems that are most complex. Has the prisoner before you now committed any crime that was not committed by John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Caesar Rodney and all the other American patriots who signed the Declaration of Independence? Did they too not break the law? Did they too not become fugitives from justice?

"What would have happened to these men if the Colonies had lost the Revolutionary War? There would be no Constitution; there would be no Congress and the laws I am accused of breaking would not even exist.

"Naturally, the government will say, 'That's all well and good but now we have our Constitution, Congress and laws and they must all be obeyed. But must they really? Are we a people so vain as to think we have achieved perfection? Are we a na-

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